



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2011

**Contact: Shannon McQuat, Marketing Coordinator
Transitions-Mental Health Association
805.550.7692, Shannon@t-mha.org**

Photos of event are available upon request.

**RESULTS ARE IN FOR LATE SUMMER WINE AND GRILL AFFAIR: A SMASH HIT
Fourth Year of Celebration Showcases the "SLO" Life and a Generous Community**

San Luis Obispo, CA – An event maturing like a well-crafted vintage, the fourth annual SLO Wine and Grill Affair drew over 300 guests to Filipponi Ranch to enjoy a rare treat: winemakers competing to create the best grill and wine pairings.

Local celebrity judges Teri Bayus, Christine Burkett, Kathy Hardesty and Lynn Diehl awarded Filipponi Ranch Cellars top honors. Salisbury Vineyards won the People's Choice Award. The field also included Per Bacco Cellars, Clesi Wines and Chamisal Vineyards.

"This event brings out the character of the Central Coast: our winemakers and artisans' commitment to excellence *and* true generosity in support of the wellbeing of our friends and neighbors," said Jill Bolster-White, executive director of Transitions-Mental Health Association. "We are especially grateful to Per Bacco Cellars for hosting, cooking and inviting Transitions to benefit."

Originally scheduled for June, the SLO Wine and Grill affair was moved to August 13 to avoid unseasonable rain. Nevertheless, attendee participation remained strong.

Event goers were treated to live music by Sleepy Guitar Johnson and gourmet samples from CookWell with Courtney, Chaparral Gardens vinegars, and honey from The California Bee Company. Growing Grounds Downtown, a program of TMHA, offered native plants and gardening items for sale. Central Coast Brewing also made a special appearance, and they are expected to return to compete with a grilled pairing next year.

"SLO Wine and Grill is a deliciously fun experience," said Diehl, Owner of Wine Region News. "It has a relaxed atmosphere without huge crowds - however, I'm telling everyone to join us there next year! It's a wonderful way to spend the afternoon and, better yet, it raises money for those who need a helping hand. Thank you Transitions- Mental Health for putting it all together!"

ABOUT TMHA

Transitions-Mental Health Association is a non-profit organization that helps children and adults live, work and grow in our community. TMHA operates 27 programs at over 35 locations that reach over 2,000 people and 1,500 families in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. The emphasis of TMHA's many services is to teach vital independent living skills, and build a framework for community re-entry

through personal empowerment and hands on experience. For over 30 years, TMHA has been dedicated to providing housing, employment, case management and life-skills support to teens and adults with mental illness; and support, resources and education for their loved ones. For more information, visit www.T-MHA.org.

###